

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**COURT OF APPEALS**

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In the Matter of S.M.B. and J.R.S., Minors.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TAMMY STEVENS,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

STEVEN BARLOW, SR.,

Respondent.

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In the Matter of S.M.B. and J.R.S., Minors.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

STEVEN BARLOW, SR.,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

TAMMY STEVENS,

Respondent.

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Before: Whitbeck, C.J., and Sawyer and Kelly, JJ.

UNPUBLISHED  
September 20, 2002

No. 235565  
Macomb Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 98-045874-NA

No. 236923  
Macomb Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 98-045874-NA

MEMORANDUM.

In these consolidated appeals, respondents-appellants appeal as of right from the trial court order terminating their parental rights to the minor children under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i) and (ii), (g), and (j). We affirm. This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E)(1)(b).

In making a termination decision, the trial court must engage in a two-step analysis. First, it must determine if a statutory ground for termination has been established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Sours Minors*, 459 Mich 624, 632; 593 NW2d 520 (1999). Second, if a statutory ground has been established, the trial court must terminate parental rights unless there exists clear evidence on the whole record that it is not in the child's best interests to terminate parental rights. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 354; 603 NW2d 787 (2000).

The Court has carefully reviewed the record on appeal, the opinion of the trial court, and the parties' briefs. We are not persuaded that the trial court erred in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were met and that it was in the best interests of the children to terminate the parental rights. Accordingly, we find no abuse of discretion by the trial court in terminating respondents-appellants' parental rights.

Affirmed.

/s/ William C. Whitbeck

/s/ David H. Sawyer

/s/ Kirsten Frank Kelly